



DANIELLE FROST/POST-RECORD

Bulldozers shovel dirt at the future site of the science courtyard. Hayes Freedom High School is designed to provide its students with several hands-on learning opportunities and the chance to take their classroom experience outdoors.

School

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alternative education students in the Camas School District. Since the school was officially named in 2007, it has been located in the Garfield Building and at the former J.D. Zellerbach Elementary School. It's new, and final location, will be the site of the former administrative offices at Lone Street.

When a committee of parents, educators and students first met in 2008 to plot the future of the school, the idea of a portable complex was on the table.

"We were really fortunate with the bids that we were

able to have a building instead," Rosenberg said. "It's a very favorable construction climate right now. We're thrilled to be able to provide a building for that program, like we have for all our other students. It's an equity issue."

When it's complete, the new school just may be the first of its kind in the country.

It has taken its mission of environmental stewardship to a whole new level with a "net zero-ready structure," which basically means that it will theoretically be able to produce as much energy as it consumes during a year, creating a net zero effect.

This is fitting, considering that the school is named after Denis Hayes, a Camas High School graduate who is credited with developing Earth Day.

Currently, there is a freestanding classroom in the Portland Public Schools district that is a net-zero certified building, but Hayes Freedom will most likely be the first actual completed school to receive this designation. It goes beyond the Leadership in Environmental Energy and Design building certifications.

To reduce energy consumption, the 20,500-square foot building will

have special insulation, fiberglass windows, overhangs, automatic light dimming controls and skylights. The floors in the commons area will be made of concrete with radiant heating underneath. The classrooms will be situated to make the most of available daylight.

Outside, there will be a "rain garden" which will be used for landscaping purposes.

The school will have seven classrooms, a science lab, administrative offices, a kitchen and commons area, a library, resource room, counseling center and computer lab.